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MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
DEBATING SOCIETY

Executive Meeting 7 Minutes

Thursday May 15th, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., MUSE

Present: Nandini Bajaj (President), Ryan Thalari (Secretary), Jacob Rock (Treasurer),
Lachlan McGrath (Vice-President), Nigel Khine.

Non-Voting: Himmi Cheruvu (Honorary Executive Member).

Absent: Anna Kosmynina (President Emeritus), Stephanie Fehon, Dhanya Mani, Rochelle
Amys

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It's Not Too Late To Apologise: Absences and Apologies

Nandini: I have received apologies from Anna, Steph and Rochelle who weren't able to attend this Meeting because they had work. Dhanya has submitted apologies and is unable to attend because she is unwell.

In future, please try to be available for Executive Meetings.

Last Week Tonight With MUDS: Portfolio Updates

Schools

Nandini: We will send an email to Tristan to get a meeting room. The mailout has not been done yet, but the online invitations have been sent and the online registration forms are available. I would like some people to help with the mailout, and I will look into organising medals.

Internals

Nandini: We've had great attendance. The Facebook events have been helping with attendance. We need to ensure we maintain contact with our members. It's really good when we have that... back and forth with everyone else.

Ryan: Banter.

Lachlan: We've also started going to the Ranch after Internals – that's been nice.

Himmi: I've talked to some of the other novices, and they've said they would find it useful if the slides from the presentations at Internals were posted online. Would that be possible?



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Nandini: I would, but there are intellectual property issues.

Nigel: You could watermark them with copyright/trademark.

Matter File/Publications

Nandini: If you would like to have access to the Matter File at Australs, you need to contribute to it.

Ryan: If you submitted something for the Matter File for Easters, can you access it at Australs, or do you need to make an additional addition?

Nandini: No, you just need to submit once.

Jacob: Nothing to report right now on POI.

Socials

Lachlan: I will cover the Post-Easters Social later in the Meeting (see relevant Agenda Item on p. 12). No one really turned up to the Pre-Easters Social (besides 2 first-years).

Nandini: I think what we need to take away from this is that the Socials Officers should try to organise socials on dates when people are free to attend, including themselves.

Lachlan: We scheduled it for Good Friday because we expected places to be open then. Will plan the next one more carefully.

Camp

Ryan: We applied for funding last week, and will launch the Facebook event soon.



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Lachlan: The Camp presentation at Easters was effective – I had some people from other universities approach us who were interested in attending.

Secretary

Ryan: I sent out a newsletter right before Easters. I will work on our logo and Facebook banner during the mid-semester break, and it will be ready before the start of Semester 2.

Competitions

Jacob: Things are going well with organising Mac Fall. I haven't checked the formal registrations yet, but the number of people who've clicked "Attending" on the Facebook event page seems promising. Pramudie from UNSW and Anna are the Chief Adjudicators.

Ryan: Who's the Tab Master?

Jacob: Anna.

Ryan: Are there plans for a social or a championship dinner after?

Jacob: We decided it was too expensive to pour money into a social.

Ryan: Can we at least designate somewhere for people to go and get them to pay themselves?

Nigel: We offer good services. We don't need to have a really low-cost tournament – a slightly higher registration price isn't really going to deter anyone.



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Nandini: Could we charge the intended registration cost, and get people to pay an additional amount if they want to go to a social after?

Jacob: A social's not really needed – it's just a one-day tournament.

Ryan: We have some people coming from interstate – it would be good to put on something nice, make attending worth their while.

Nandini: I think it's important to have something. There's usually an expectation of some kind of social after any tournament, and it helps the quality of our tournament seem better.

Recommendation for some of the money made from the Mac Fall tournament to be put towards a social to be held after the tournament – approximately \$40-\$50.

Marketing

Lachlan: Nothing to report.

Nandini: Have you thought about things for MacFest?

Lachlan: No.

Nandini: You should probably start thinking of something new for MacFest.

ACTION ITEM: MARKETING OFFICERS (LACHLAN, STEPH, AND ROCHELLE) to think of ideas for MacFest.

ACTION ITEM: NANDINI to email the Marketing Officers old PDF's of big-screen advertisements used in the E7B Courtyard screen.



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Finance

Nigel: People haven't filled out the Doodle poll yet with their availabilities to hold a fundraising BBQ. Please do it. Nothing else to report that isn't going to be covered later in the Meeting (see Agenda Item, p. 11).

ACTION ITEM: ALL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS WHO HAVEN'T ALREADY to fill out the following Doodle Poll with their availabilities to hold a fundraising BBQ:

<http://doodle.com/3xcq987vtwgczmfh>

Treasurer

Jacob: The Society has enough funds to pay registration for Worlds, and then will have very little funds left. I need to chase people up for outstanding payments from Easters and Worlds.

Also, the Society's getting debt cards.

Ryan: Here's some information about the debit cards:

- ❖ Debit cards will be issued from the NAB branch on campus (for more information on the type of account being used, see: <http://www.nab.com.au/business/accounts/specialised-accounts/nab-community-fee-saver>). This system is known as "MacPay".
- ❖ The debit cards require 2 Authorised Representatives as signatories.
- ❖ Up to 2 Authorised Representatives can have a card each (my recommendation: Treasurer and President)



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- ❖ There will be a \$2500 daily limit (ambiguity on whether this limit is per card or per account). Student HQ seems receptive to the idea of increasing the limit.
- ❖ One card can have an emergency \$200 available (my recommendation: Treasurer).

Lachlan: ***"I would like to propose the motion that we adopt the MacPay system in all its glory"***

Nandini seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Looks Like We're Blasting Off Again! Australs (Trials, Registration Officers, Number of Teams, Subsidy)

Trials and Number of Teams

Ryan: A room has been booked for Trials, and we have an External Selector (Thomas Goldie from ANU). We still need a Registration Officer (the Trial Policy says the Registration Officer can't be trialling as a debater). There are 13 debaters registered to trial, and 2 people have expressed their interest to trial as adjudicators.

Nandini: Can people please ask around to find someone to be a Registration Officer?

Ryan: I think given that there's enough demand, that we should send 3 teams and 2 adjudicators to Australs this year.

Nandini: Should we look into applying for an additional adjudicator spot?

Jacob: That will cost more – I don't know if we could afford a 3rd adjudicator spot.



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Ryan: We also need to be wary of people dropping out. It'll be harder to fill a 3rd adjudicator spot if anyone from the contingent pulls out before the tournament.

Ryan: "I would like to propose the motion that we send 3 teams and 2 adjudicators to Otago Australs, 2014."

Nandini seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Subsidies

Ryan: Registration costs \$715 NZD, which is approximately equal to \$660 AUD. Could the Society afford for members to pay \$300 each?

Jacob: If we get people to pay money owing from Easters and Worlds, then we should be able to.

Nandini: "I would like to propose the motion that we subsidise the tournament registration cost of Otago Australs so that tournament registration will cost participants \$300 AUD per person."

Ryan seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Nigel: Can we try to make more money from competitions? That may help reduce the chances of being in such a cash-strapped situation.

Nandini: It's a general principle in the debating community to not profit from competitions.

Jacob: I agree cash flow's a problem, but it's an issue that needs to be addressed in the long-term through later surplus, not something that we should try to immediately address by changing the advertised registration cost for Mac Fall.



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Lachlan: What methods do we have for earning money (besides School's Days)?

Nandini: We can hold another bake sale, and host a fundraising BBQ.

The MADness Is (Almost) Over: Easters Wrap-Up & Future

Recommendations

Nandini: Easters was excellent. We had a great contingent. No teams broke, but individual speakers' scores generally improved during the tournament. MUDS T-shirts happened which was great.

Ryan: Anna broke to the Grand Final as an adjudicator, which is an amazing achievement.

Lachlan: I didn't really like the grey colour of the t-shirts.

Nandini: It was cheaper to have grey t-shirts. It seemed like people bound together with the MUDS t-shirt.

Himmi: Easters was awesome. There were some moments when some Executive Members seemed a little exclusive, but otherwise everything was just great. The novices got to know each other really well, and it was a lot of fun.

Nigel: Do you mean that the MUDS Executive Members spent too much time with each other, or with Executive Members from other institutions?

Himmi: Spending time with other institutions, but some did try and introduce the novices to people from other institutions, which was good.

Nandini: What did you think of the first night, with having the Equity briefing and the ice-breakers?



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Himmi: The Equity briefing was good, but the way the experienced debaters positioned themselves in the room where they sat was a little exclusive. Otherwise great.

Nandini: We should review the ice-breakers just to make sure they don't have the potential to make anyone feel awkward or uncomfortable.

Lachlan: Easters was a lot of fun. We may not be that good at good at debating, but we're good at drinking.

ACTION ITEM: NANDINI to communicate with the t-shirt contact.

Recommendation for future Easters mentors, experienced members and contingent Equity Officers to look into more equitable ice-breakers and to be inclusive with the novices at Easters, including introducing them to members from other institutions.

Nandini: One thing that Steph raised was that we should look into Trial Policy for Easters, because while it's good to focus on development, it would be helpful to have more competitiveness. I'd like to recommend that future Trial Policies consider a mixture of development and competitiveness when it comes to team formation.

Ryan: This year's Easters teams were formed with both of those objectives in mind. There's no need to change the Policy.

ACTION ITEM: LACHLAN to write a post-action report on Easters.

Ryan: Did people feel that information about Easters was communicated clearly?

Lachlan: Maybe have more information on the contingent Facebook event page.

Himmi: If not everyone has Facebook, maybe send information about flights over email?

Jacob: Sharing flight information over email could get very messy.

Nandini: We could get mentors to contact their team mates about flights.



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Equity for Everyone!

Ryan: After receiving multiple reports from multiple sources, Dhanya and I believe it necessary to enact Section 9.1 d) of the MUDS Constitution.

Ryan: ***"I propose the motion that we enact Section 9.1 d) of the MUDS Constitution."***

Nandini seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

From Snags to Riches: Fundraising BBQ

Nigel: Only one Bunnings has gotten back to me about us hosting a fundraising BBQ at one of their stores – either things have been lost in the mail, or those stores just didn't respond. It would be useful to get responses from the rest of the Executive about their availabilities for running a fundraiser. There's no point in organising this if no-one's interested/available or think it's not going to be effective.

Nandini: I think it's good to have this. It will help the Society raise funds, allow non-Executive Members to be involved and help out with the Society, and helps create a community presence. It will also help to diversify our fundraising methods (as opposed to just relying on School's Days), and isn't a huge strain to run.

Himmi: Can we get a company to sponsor us?

Nandini: It's a tough climate right now, companies are being very cautious.

ACTION ITEM: NIGEL, DHANYA AND HIMMI to look into the Prospectus and sponsorship.



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ACTION ITEM: “BIG 3” (NANDINI, DHANYA AND JACOB) to have a meeting to assign Himmi (a) specific role(s) on the Executive, and to consider reallocation of roles.

Nigel: It’s at the Carlingford Bunnings. Should I open the Doodle Poll asking for people’s availabilities to non-Executive Members?

Nandini: Let’s set a date first based on the availabilities of Executive Members, and then we can open up the poll to general membership for additional assistance.

Nigel: Can we tie helping out with the fundraising BBQ to subsidies for tournaments?

Ryan: We can’t do it for Australs – we would have to provide more notice.

Nandini: Maybe for Worlds trials.

iOS 8: Mac Mini Update

Jacob: I’ve covered this mostly in the portfolio update.

Nandini: Let’s not lose the momentum we’ve built up with Mac Mini last year. Let’s try to take Nigel’s enthusiasm on board in terms of trying to make this the best as it can possibly be. I’m happy to charge slightly more so we can put more money into a tab at the social.

‘Cause We Can’t Stop: Post-Easters Social Update: Post-Easters Social

Lachlan: There’s not much else to update on this. People will BYO food and beverages.

Ryan: Make sure that everyone who went to Easters is invited to the event.



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MUD\$: Reimbursements

Jacob: The Society owes Nandini Bajaj, Mark Slaven and Nigel Khine money.

Nigel is owed \$48.56 for the Commonwealth Debating Championships.

Nandini is owed 3 amounts: \$20, \$35 and \$48.76.

Mark is owed \$113.

Ryan: I'm also owed \$100 for paying the External Selector for Easters Trials.

Jacob: "I would like to propose the motion that the Society reimburses Nandini Bajaj

\$103.76, Mark Slaven \$113, Nigel Khine \$48.56 and Ryan Thalari \$100."

Lachlan seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough: Tentative date for next Executive

Meeting

Ryan: Do we want our next Meeting to be before or after Australs?

Nandini: We should have it before. Let's aim to hold it somewhere between June 20th and June 26th.

Date for next Executive Meeting to be determined by Doodle Poll, between June 20th and

June 26th.

Meeting Concluded